

“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

for July 29 – August 4


[Apothecary](#) – The Apothecaries toured the Navy Hospital Ship, The Comfort, today. We are indebted to our volunteer, Ret. Navy Captain Andre Greedan for arranging the opportunity to visit. Andre was instrumental in its original design.



The

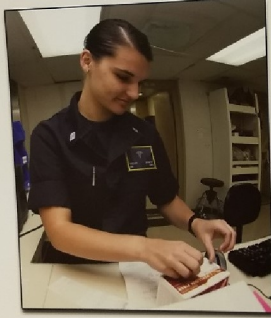
Apothecaries, Volunteers, and their Pharmacy Student in front of the ship

Pharmacy

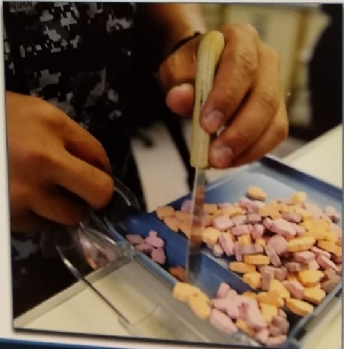


The mission of the pharmacy is to provide the highest quality of comprehensive pharmaceutical support and services to those onboard the Medical Treatment Facility and all eligible beneficiaries in support of the mission of the USNS COMFORT.


The Pharmacy Department oversees all activities relating to the acquisition, storage, dispensing and distribution of pharmaceutical agents onboard and at ashore med sites.



With a compliment of 14 enlisted and 4 officers, the pharmacy department is comprised of four divisions. Operational Clinics, Outpatient Division, Inpatient Division, and Supply Division. In the Continuing Promise 2015 mission alone these divisions worked together to hand fill over 330,000 prescriptions and prepack over 770,000 medications for 11 countries within a six month period.



Additionally, the pharmacy works hand in hand with the providers to monitor all aspects of drug therapy to ensure the safe and appropriate use of medications within the hospital ship and operational clinics.



INFORMATION CONTRIBUTED BY...

The Pharmacy on board



Narcotics vault –
18th-century Apothecaries kept their opium in an unlocked drawer.



Patient care area

Carpenter – The Carpenters are building the new hotbed for the Colonial Garden, and working up timbers for the Gallows.

Colonial Garden – As the adage goes: ‘be careful what you wish for’. It finally rained. We recorded 6” of rain since the last ‘Advisor’ was sent out last week. We are thankful for the rain as the trees were suffering and shedding leaves to make up for the lack of moisture. We have been harvesting melons, Petite gris de Rennes, Cypriot, and pocket melon.

Also harvested, but not intentionally, was corn: stalks were blown down in one of the rain storms. Cucumber vines continue to produce copious amounts of fruit. The squash would be a fruitful harvest if the blossoms were not eaten off. If a blossom does manage to go unnoticed, the squirrels either hide under the leaves and dine or carry off their prize to devour



elsewhere. Parsnips, beets, and chard successfully germinated, and when it dries out, we will thin the rows. The propagation bed has been prepared, under the grape arbor, for hardwood cuttings. Three clay pots with three cuttings each will reside under the new large glass cloches and kept moist until they send out roots. Green beans, parsnips, turkey cucumber, corn, and melons were sent to the Kitchens. The tuberoses are beginning to bloom and spread their heavenly scent across far distances in the evening. Both cisterns were drained, scrubbed, and refilled to rid us of the dreaded ‘moskeetoe’.

Historic Farming – Almost all of the tobacco has been cut for this year. The plants have some of the biggest leaves seen in years due to the rainfall this spring. The leaves have been hung in the Ludwell-Paradise Stable to cure. Some green corn has been picked and shared with Historic Foodways, who have roasted it for guests to see. The squirrels are getting most of it, though. Growth continues for watermelons, cushaws, and Long Island Cheese Squash.

Joinery – This week in the Joinery, the plucky Apprentices are putting progress as their primary purpose! They will all be starting work on individual projects that have been set for them by their apprenticeship curriculum; in this case, hanging cupboards! They are very excited to start drawing up the plans for these pieces and to gather the materials necessary to begin work.

Military Programs – Military Programs has been conducting all of its programming as usual, and additionally been conducting musket training for newer staff members. Also, the Department would like to welcome Sam, who has just joined us as our newest full-time employee.

Silversmith – George has been demonstrating hammering ingots into sheet silver, in addition to working on spoons and spending time at the Foundry. Chris continues working on her last two trays, while Bobbie is working on stoning a tray. Preston is working on several small fluted bowls while waiting for the next tray to polish. Lynn is setting up the engraving for the fourth tray, as well as engraving trade silver and the fan plate. Parker is working on several seamed cups. William has been working on the base for his silver gurney bowl, as well as practicing handwriting for engraving.



William's gurney bowl and the tray being stoned

Wigmaker – Good news from the Wig Shop! Sara has completed the wig for the Smithsonian! What seemed like a nearly impossible task at the beginning of the summer was completed weeks before the deadline! She personally wants to thank everyone else in the shop who assisted, from the Master to our Junior Interpreters and Volunteers, whether in actually helping with the wig itself, taking on a larger portion of the maintenance work, or by interpreting a bit more than usual here and there. For those of you keeping score at home, the wig ended up taking 85 hours to make. It is a light-weight wig with the rows of hair spaced quite far apart in the back, so was able to be completed in half the time of some of the heavier and more complex wigs that have been made in the past few years.

Regina has continued working on making new hairpieces out of old hair, a task that is helping to refresh our stock. As always, if you have a need (or even just a desire) for a hairpiece, let us know!

Debbie has taken on the herculean task of creating scrapbooks for each and every one of the wigs that were studied on our research trips over the past 5 years. These scrapbooks will become an easy way for newcomers to the shop (or anyone else inquiring after information) to see all of the photos, diagrams, descriptions, and other information about these wigs, allowing study of them to continue even years after the original visit.

Behind the scenes, Betty has been working on finding new suppliers for the materials we need to continue reproducing those wigs that we've been able to study. This is quite a task as our materials still have to be sourced from all over the world today!